

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 PM-03 SP-02 RSC-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 /038 W

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R 201033Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SAIGON 15687

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS VS

SUBJ: PRESS BRIEFINGS ON VIET-NAM

1. I HOPE MY ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT, THAT THE DRASTIC UNDERSTATEMENT ON 18 DECEMBER BY ANDERSON (STATE) AND BEECHER (DOD) OF MAGNITUDE OF CURRENT NVA OFFENSIVE WAS QUITE DELIBERATE AND DONE WITH INTENTION TO MINIMIZE SPECULATION ABOUT NECESSITY FOR DAV SUPPLEMENTAL FOR FY 75 UNTIL PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE GOES FORWARD.

2. IF, HOWEVER, THIS UNDERSTATEMENT IS REGARDED AS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE CURRENT REALITIES OF EITHER THE MAGNITUDE OF THE FIGHTING, THE NVA FORCES PRESENTLY IN VIET-NAM, OR WHETHER "IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO OPERATE WITH SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION" THEN WE ARE REALLY IN TROUBLE BECAUSE IT SIMPLY DOES NOT ACCORD WITH CLEARLY DEMONSTRABLE FACTS.

3. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT WE AVOID THIS YEAR ANY "CREDIBILITY GAP" WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET REQUESTS. I WOULD RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THE CREATION OF SOME EFFECTIVE MECHANISM WHICH WOULD INSURE THE ESSENTIAL CO-ORDINATION OF OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND IN SAIGON.

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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